



# House of Representatives

## File No. 581

General Assembly

February Session, 2012

**(Reprint of File No. 181)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5259  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 23, 2012

### ***AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSPECTION OF VESSELS AND VESSEL TRAILERS FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-180 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2012*):

3 (a) No person shall transport a vessel, as defined in section 15-127,  
4 or any trailer used to transport such vessel, in the state without first  
5 inspecting such vessel for the presence of vegetation and aquatic  
6 invasive species, as determined by the commissioner, and properly  
7 removing and disposing of any such vegetation and aquatic invasive  
8 species that are visible and identifiable without optical magnification  
9 from such vessel or trailer.

10 (b) Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be  
11 fined not more than one hundred dollars for each such violation.

12 Sec. 2. Subsection (g) of section 15-140e of the general statutes is  
13 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

14 1, 2012):

15 (g) Any course in safe boating operation approved by the  
16 Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection, as described  
17 in subsection (b) of this section, shall include instruction on the proper  
18 means of: (1) Inspecting a vessel and trailers used for transporting such  
19 vessels for the presence of vegetation and aquatic invasive species, as  
20 determined by the commissioner pursuant to subsection (a) of section  
21 15-180, as amended by this act; and (2) properly disposing of such  
22 vegetation and such aquatic invasive species.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	15-180
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2012</i>	15-140e(g)

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

### ***Explanation***

The bill, which expands boater's responsibility for inspecting their boat and boat trailer before transporting them into the state, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact.

House "A" altered the underlying bill by applying a fine to all individuals who commit a violation, instead of those who knowingly do so, which results in the impact described above.

### ***The Out Years***

***State Impact:*** None

***Municipal Impact:*** None

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5259 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT REQUIRING THE INSPECTION OF VESSELS AND VESSEL TRAILERS FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands boaters' responsibility for inspecting their boats and boat trailers before transporting them in Connecticut. Current law requires them to inspect for and properly remove and dispose of any vegetation and subjects violators to a fine of up to \$100 for each violation. The bill requires them to inspect for vegetation and aquatic invasive species, as determined by the energy and environmental protection commissioner, and properly remove and dispose of what is visible and identifiable without optical magnification. As under current law, violators are subject to a fine of up to \$100 for each violation.

The bill requires Department of Energy and Environmental Protection-approved safe boating courses to instruct boaters on how to properly inspect boats and trailers for aquatic invasive species and dispose of them. By law, the courses must already instruct boaters on how to properly inspect for and dispose of vegetation.

\*House Amendment "A" applies the fine to all individuals who commit a violation, instead of only those who do so knowingly, as under the underlying bill.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea     29     Nay   0     (03/14/2012)